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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/519,303	11/04/2005	Evert Frederik Steennis	ARSI-009	9165

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EXAMINER
DOLE, TIMOTHY J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2858	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
09/13/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/519,303	STEENNIS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Timothy J. Dole	2858	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 11-13 is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) 4-10 and 14-21 is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 December 2004 is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/15/06.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "11" has been used to designate both an impedance increasing element in figure 4 and a time registering unit in figures 6 and 7. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to because empty boxes 10, 11, 14 and 15 should contain labels or symbols describing their function. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief

description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract is objected to for containing the legal phraseology "comprises" on lines 2 and 3, which should be avoided.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities: When claim 13 depends on claim 11, the following limitations lack antecedent basis: "earth wire" in line 3; and "the line between the voltage source and the earth" in line 4. Appropriate correction is required.

5. Claims 4-10 and 14-21 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-3 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Armstrong et al. (US 5,856,776).

Referring to claim 1, Armstrong et al. discloses a method for inputting an information signal into a power cable (column 1, lines 5-10) which is connected to a voltage supply (fig. 2) and which comprises at least one or more conductors (column 3, lines 30-36), a dielectric provided around the conductors (column 3, lines 35-38) and a conductive earth sheath arranged wholly or partially around the dielectric (column 3, lines 21-25 and column 5, lines 29-36), the method comprising of inputting a pulse-like information signal (column 1, lines 37-67) at a first position via the earth sheath in order

to produce a corresponding pulse-like information signal which is propagated to a second position in the dielectric of the power cable (column 5, lines 37-47).

Referring to claim 2, Armstrong et al. discloses the method as claimed wherein inputting of a pulse-like information signal into the power cable comprises of inputting the information signal directly into the earth sheath (column 5, lines 29-47), into an earth wire between the earth sheath and the earth or into a line between the voltage source and the earth.

Referring to claim 3, Armstrong et al. discloses the method as claimed, comprising of transmitting data between said positions via the power cable (column 5, lines 37-47).

Referring to claim 11, Armstrong et al. discloses a system for inputting an electrical information signal into a power cable (column 1, lines 5-10) which is connected to a voltage source (fig. 2) and which comprises at least one or more conductors (column 3, lines 30-36), a dielectric provided around the conductors (column 3, lines 35-38) and a conductive earth sheath arranged wholly or partially around the dielectric (column 3, lines 21-25 and column 5, lines 29-36), comprising: inputting means (fig. 2 (23A)) for inputting a pulse-like information signal at a first position via the earth sheath (column 1, lines 37-67 and column 5, lines 37-47), herein producing a corresponding pulse-like information signal which is propagated to a second position in the dielectric of the power cable (column 6, lines 1-25).

Referring to claim 12, Armstrong et al. discloses the system as claimed wherein the inputting means are embodied to input the information signal directly into the earth

sheath (fig. 2 and column 5, lines 29-47), into an earth wire between the earth sheath and the earth or into a line between the voltage source and the earth.

Referring to claim 13, Armstrong et al. discloses the system as claimed wherein the current inputting means comprise one or more coils positioned close to the earth sheath (column 4, lines 5-10), earth wire and/or the line between the voltage source and the earth for the purpose of inputting the current pulse.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are cited to show the state of the art with respect to inputting a data signal into a power cable.

USPN 6,452,482 to Cern et al.: This patent shows an apparatus for inductively coupling a data signal to a power cable.

USPN 6,407,987 to Abraham: This patent shows an apparatus for coupling a data signal to a power cable using a coupling transformer.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy J. Dole whose telephone number is (571) 272-2229. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Fri. from 8:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Timothy J. Dole